

February

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1959

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR

1 9 5 9

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel. No.:
Kidderminster 2237

LAND OAK HOUSE
KIDDERMINSTER

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR H. DOOLITTLE, C.C.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT
 " R. E. COLEY
 " H. E. HICKTON
 " H. HINGLEY, J.P.
 " A. E. HOBSON
 " W. H. KIMBERLEE, J.P.
 " J. PAGE
 " J. POWICK
 " G. F. PRATT
 " E. SMITH
 " S. SPENCER
 " M. W. STAITE
 " J. WARDLE, J.P.
 " T. O. WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant : C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk :

Mrs. J. E. JOHNSON

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer : E. LEE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1959.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres ...	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1959 ...	11,870
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1959 ...	3,971
Rateable Value ...	£126,842
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£500

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

				1959	1958
Births.		Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	Live Births : Legitimate	86	78	164	177
	Illegitimate	5	1	6	4
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population				14.3	14.9
Birth rate for England and Wales				16.5	16.4
		Males	Females	Total	Total
(b)	Still Births : Legitimate	6	2	8	4
	Illegitimate	0	1	1	0
Deaths.		Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	No. registered for District	57	49	106	100
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				8.9	8.2
Death rate for England and Wales				11.6	11.7
(b)	Maternal Mortality	...	...	0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births				0	0
(c)	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)	...	...	4	5
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :					
All Infants per 1,000 live births				23.5	27.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				24.4	28.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				0	0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first 4 weeks)				17.6	16.5
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births				22.2	22.6

Cause of Death.							M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
12.	„ „ Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
13.	„ „ Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
18.	Coronary Disease Angina	...	...	...	...	...	12	10
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	8
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
All causes							57	49

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Mrs. J. E. Johnson as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area — at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately 90 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by :

- (1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
- (4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.
- (5) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
- (6) Kidderminster Corporation.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 35 samples of water from the six main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES TO PREMISES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc.	
	Direct to Premises		By Means of Standpipe		No. of Premises	Population
	No. of Premises	Population	No. of Premises	Population		
Wolverley	1093	3,279	162	486	53	159
Upper Arley	131	393	119	357	107	321
Ribbesford	9	27	—	—	18	54
Churchill and Blake- down	381	1,143	—	—	18	54
Rock	485	1,455	158	474	99	297
Broome	49	147	—	—	22	66
Stone	84	252	—	—	41	123
Rushock	26	78	—	—	28	84
Kidderminster Foreign	105	315	207	621	74	222
Chaddesley Corbett ...	409	1,227	45	135	48	144
Totals	2,772	8,316	691	2,073	508	1,524

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 691 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development, and camping sites.

Work on the long-awaited Sewerage Scheme for Chaddesley Corbett started in February and it is expected that the disposal plant will commence operations early next year.

Improvements in sanitary conditions due to the completion of the Wolverley and Cookley Sewerage Scheme are proceeding very satisfactorily. Of the very few properties which are not connected the outstanding case is the village school at Wolverley. Pressure has been brought to bear on the governing body and it is expected that this will be dealt with in the near future.

SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	Population Served	No. of Houses with		
			Pails	Cess Pits, etc.	Private Installations
Wolverley ...	415	1,552	14	24	49
Cookley ...	599	2096	12	14	21
Upper Arley ...	39	136	78	150	69
Ribbesford ...	—	—	8	8	16
Churchill and Blakedown ...	254	984	18	54	94
Rock ...	72	252	121	370	353
Broome ...	—	—	4	15	54
Stone ...	16	54	28	61	74
Rushock ...	10	35	26	30	14
Kidderminster Foreign ...	18	63	199	84	89
Chaddesley Corbett ...	113	395	112	239	193
Totals ...	1,536	5,567	620	1,049	1026

River Pollution.

Despite the efforts of the Severn River Board there is no obvious improvement in the condition of the River Stour or the canal.

HOUSING.**STATISTICS.****1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	503
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	517
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	108
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	125
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	119

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices :

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	101
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

No case of serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.**Immunisations against Diphtheria.**

Despite our efforts many children remain un-immunised at least until school age and parents must be made to realise the serious risk of the return of diphtheria as a killing disease if they do not take advantage of the protection provided.

Ninety-three babies under one year, 29 children from one to four years and 34 children from five to fourteen years of age were given courses of treatment and 118 were given booster doses.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 91 children under one year, 3 children from one to four years, 0 children from five to fifteen years, and 4 persons over fifteen years were given primary vaccination. One child from two to four years, 5 children from five to fifteen and 13 persons over fifteen years were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1959 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	1	11	4	2	1	20	2	—
Measles ...	—	21	24	70	27	1	3	146	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	2	1	5	3	1	14	27	1	3
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	2	24	27	86	34	4	19	196	5	3

Tuberculosis.

Five cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Conclusion.

The services provided by the Council have proved to be very satisfactory, but there are still areas where urgent improvements will be required in the future.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

Four slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	176	3	30	976	501
Number inspected	168	3	25	791	469
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	32	2	Nil	29	19
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	19.0	66.6	Nil	3.6	4.0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.8

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Moribund and badly bled	29 lbs.
Distomatosis	36 lbs.
Pneumonia	151 lbs.
Tuberculosis	169 lbs.
Injury	260 lbs.
Total	<u>645 lbs.</u>

Milk.

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises :

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions	47	—	103
Cafes	11	—	116
Hotels and other licensed premises	33	—	71
Works Canteens	1	—	4
Dairies	21	—	68
Mobile Canteens	1	—	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	18
Ice Cream Retailers	30	30	59

The general high standard of food premises has been maintained.

The close supervision of the arrangements for one-day fixtures and the good co-operation from those responsible has continued during the year.

Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	19
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1959	4
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Inspections	16
-------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Contraventions Remedied :

Limewashing	4
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PUBLIC CLEANSING.**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one 3-ton Bedford Eagle lorry with a crew of three, and a Contractor's lorry manned by two men.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built up areas. The Bedford deals with the parishes of Chaddeley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

Consideration will have to be given next year to the acquisition of further land for tipping.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with :

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	...	1,878 loads
Tipped at Rock	...	...	...	...	309 „
					<hr/>
					2,187 loads
					<hr/>

All these tips are regularly sprayed with D.D.T. and other insecticides and little nuisance has arisen from flies, crickets, etc.

Night Soil Collection.

The commencement of work on the Sewerage Scheme in the village of Chaddesley Corbett brings nearer the end of the old-established system of night soil collection. Whereas the contractor has always carried out his duties satisfactorily, no one will be sorry to see the cessation of his activities.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rural District is very well supplied with water from several sources. Bacteriological samples are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows :

					Fit	Unfit	Total
<i>Public Supplies Mains</i>							
Cookley Borehole	...	...	...	...	9	—	9
Elan Valley	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
Stourbridge Water Board	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
South Staffs. Water Board	...	...	...	...	9	—	9
East Worcs. Water Board	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Kidderminster Corporation	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
					<hr/>		
					35	—	35
					<hr/>		

Private Supplies

Wells and Springs	...	...	...	...	7	7	14
Stream	...	...	...	...	—	2	2

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1959.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	350
Dairies	68
Fried Fish Premises	6
Infectious Disease	14
Overcrowding	271
Premises where animals are kept	89
Schools	12
Water Courses	71
Water Supply	156
Workshops	2
Provision of Dustbins	78
Miscellaneous	910
Refuse Collection	1,911

SANITARY WORK.**Interior of Houses.**

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	17
Verminous houses dealt with	8

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants	12
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.	246

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	147
Defective drains repaired	80
New drains provided	91
Sinks provided	58
Cesspools abolished	16

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected	42
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed	37
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	98
Water Closets repaired	74
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	102
Conversions :	
Conversions of privies to W.C's	12
Conversions of pail closets to W.C's	29

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	16
--	----

Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	151
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants ...	29
Ashpits abolished	1

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	17
---	----

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.**Infestation Order, 1943.**

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses ...	407
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises	9
Number of other infestations dealt with	12
Number of complaints received	83

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING.

Although only four houses were completed during the year, it is pleasing to report that a further 46 are in course of erection and it is hoped that a larger number will become available in a future programme.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest :

Number of Premises licensed for Storage :

Private ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
								—
					Total	...	...	58
								—
Total fees received	...	...	...	...				£29 5s. 0d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringements of the Acts.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector.

**The Cookley Printers,
Telephone
Wolverley**

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